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HOW ISRAEL WAS DELIVERED FROM TWO CRUEL INVASIONS.

I. INVASION OF THE MOABITES AND OTHERS.

2 *Chron. chap. 20, to verse 31.*

It came to pass after this also, that the children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them, *other* beside the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle. Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria, and behold they *be* in Hazazon-Tamar, which *is* Engedi. And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. And Judah gathered themselves together to ask *help* of the Lord: even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord.

And Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord before the new court, and said, O Lord God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thy hand is *there not* power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee? Art not thou our God,

who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend forever? And they dwelt therein, and have built thee a sanctuary therein for thy name, saying, If, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence (for thy name is in this house) and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help. And now behold, the children of Ammon, and Moab, and mount Seir, whom thou wouldst not let Israel invade, when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them, and destroyed them not: behold, I say, how they reward us, to come to cast us out of thy possession, which thou hast given us to inherit. O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us? neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee. And all Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, their wives and their children.

Then upon Jahaziel the son of Zachariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, came the Spirit of the Lord, in the midst of the congregation: and he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the Lord unto you; Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude for the battle is not yours but God's. To-morrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz, and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel. Ye shall not need to fight in this battle; set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not nor be dis-

mayed ; to-morrow go out against them, for the Lord *will be* with you. And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground : and all Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, fell before the Lord, worshipping the Lord. And the Levites, of the children of the Kohathites, and of the children of the Korhites, stood up to praise the Lord God of Israel, with a loud voice on high.

And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa : and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitant of Jerusalem ; Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established ; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper. And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed Singers unto the Lord, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army ; and to say, Praise the Lord, for his mercy *endureth* forever.

And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah, and they were smitten. For the children of Ammon and Moab, stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy *them* : and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another. And when Judah came towards the watch-tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and behold, they *were* dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped. And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels which they stripped off for themselves more than they could carry away : and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much.

And on the fourth day as they assembled themselves in the valley of Berachah : for there they blessed the Lord : therefore the name of the same place was callen the valley of Berachah unto this day. Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat in the forefront of them, to go again to Jerusalem with joy ; for the Lord had made them to rejoice over their enemies. And they came to Jerusalem with psalteries, and harps, and trumpets unto the house of the Lord. And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries, when they had heard that the Lord fought against the enemies of Israel. So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet ; for his God gave him rest round about.

2. INVASION BY SENNACHERIB, KING OF ASSYRIA.

2 *Chron. chap. 32, to verse 24.*

After these things and the establishment *thereof*, Sennacherib, king of Assyria, came and entered into Judah, and encamped against the fenced cities, and thought to win them for himself. And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib was come, and that he was purposed to fight against Jerusalem, he took counsel with his princes, and his mighty men, to stop the waters of the fountains, which *were* without the city and they did help him. So there was gathered much people together, who stopped all the fountains, and the brook that ran through the midst of the land, saying, Why should the kings of Assyria come and find much water? Also he strengthened himself, and built up all the wall that was broken, and raised *it* up to the towers, and another wall without, and repaired Millo in the city of David, and made darts and

shields in abundance. And he set captains of war over the people, and gathered them together to him in the street of the gate of the city, and spake comfortably to them, saying: Be strong and courageous, be not afraid nor dismayed for the king of Assyria, nor for all the multitude that is with him: for there *be* more with us than with him. With him is an arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah, king of Judah.

After this did Sennacherib, king of Assyria, send his servants to Jerusalem (but he *himself laid seige* against Lachish, and all his power with him) unto Hezekiah king of Judah, and unto all Judah that *were* at Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith Sennacherib, king of Assyria, Whereon do ye trust, that ye abide in the seige in Jerusalem? Doth not Hezekiah persuade you to give over yourselves to die by famine and by thirst; saying, The Lord our God shall deliver us out of the hand of the king of Assyria? Hath not the same Hezekiah taken away his high places, and his altars, and commanded Judah and Jerusalem, saying: Ye shall worship before one altar, and burn incense upon it? Know ye not what I and my fathers have done unto all the people of *other* lands? were the gods of the nations of those lands any ways able to deliver their lands out of my hand? Who *was there* among all the gods of those nations, that my fathers utterly destroyed, that could deliver his people out of my hand, that your God should be able to deliver you out of my hand? Now therefore let not Hezekiah deceive you, nor persuade you on this manner, neither yet believe him: for no god of any nation or kingdom was able to deliver his people out of my hand, and out of the hand of my fathers: how much less shall your God de-

liver you out of mine hand? And his servants spake yet *more* against the Lord God, and against his servant Hezekiah. He wrote also letters to rail on the Lord God of Israel, and to speak against him, saying, As the gods of the nations of *other* lands have not delivered their people out of my hand: so shall not the God of Hezekiah deliver his out of my hand. Then they cried with a loud voice in the Jews' speech unto the people of Jerusalem that were on the wall, to affright them, and to trouble them, that they might take the city. And they spake against the God of Jerusalem, as against the gods of the people of the earth *which were* the work of the hands of man. For this *cause* Hezekiah the king, and the Prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz, prayed and cried to heaven.

And the Lord sent an Angel which cut off all the mighty men of valor, and the leaders and captains in the camp of the king of Assyria: so he returned with shame of face to his own land. And when he was come into the house of his god, they that came forth of his own bowels, slew him there with the sword. Thus the Lord saved Hezekiah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, from the hand of Sennacherib, the king of Assyria, and from the hand of all *others*, and guided them on every side. And many brought gifts unto the Lord to Jerusalem, and presents to Hezekiah, king of Judah: so that he was magnified in the sight of all nations, from thenceforth.

QUESTIONS.

What did Jehoshaphat when he was told of the great army that was coming against him? From whom did he seek help? Why? What did the people of Judah? Can we expect to prosper without trusting in the Lord? Why not? Do you put your trust in him?

Did Hezekiah prepare to defend Jerusalem against Sennacherib? What did he? What said he to the people?—Why were there more with him than with the enemy? Have we more with us than *our* enemies? Why do you think so?

THE CAPTAIN OF SALVATION.

BY REV. D. A. PENICK, OF N. C.

It is the glory and safety of a people, in times of war, to honor and obey their legitimate and trust-worthy officers. Jesus Christ is commissioned from Heaven as the Captain of Salvation, in the bitterest war that was ever waged on this earth. "For we wrestle, not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." His jurisdiction includes, not only all civilians, but all officers as well as privates in the army, whether of invasion or of defence. Christ, therefore, is legitimately the trust-worthy Captain of Salvation for us all.

Now a word to soldiers, whether officers or privates, in our noble army of defence. Were you members of the Christian Church before entering the army? If so, Christ is confessedly your Captain. You have enlisted under his banner. You are pledged to follow him. He is drilling you for, and leading you in the conflict against sin and the devil—against the world and your corrupt nature—a host of deadly enemies to your souls. He commands you to follow him, through evil and good report, to victory and to glory. To do this, you must place implicit confidence in Him, closely imitate his example, stand constantly by his side, and promptly execute his commands. As sol-

diers of the cross, whether in the army or in domestic life, you are daily to deny yourselves, take up your cross and follow Christ, your Captain—yea, constantly to watch and pray and fight against temptation and sin—walking circumspectly before Him and all around you, in fear and godliness. But, instead of this, have you ceased, in the bustle of camp life, to watch and pray and follow Christ? Have you lost sight of your Captain, and deserted his colors and fallen into the ranks of the ungodly around you? If so, you have back-slidden from the faith, disgraced yourselves, dishonored your Captain and done serious injury to your ungodly associates. You are assuredly traitors to the cause of Christ, and the doomed victims of his wrath. Nevertheless, He calls you to return to your allegiance to Him, and offers you pardon and restoration, upon your immediate and penitential return. Will you return?

But are there not many of you who have never enlisted under the banner of Christ? The war of conquest against your souls is raging around you. Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace as well as the Captain of Salvation, says to you: "Follow me." He offers to recruit you into his service. He forces none—will have none but volunteers. Enlist under Him, and He will train you for His service, accompany you through the whole campaign, give you a rich bounty of Grace, make you more than conquerors, and then crown you with crowns of victory. Will you give Him your name, and with it—your heart?

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